

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to express our deep concern with the provision in Proposed Bill #HB 5425 that establishes that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing. The current law states that the burden of proof is the responsibility of the school district to prove it has provided a Free, Appropriate, Public Education (FAPE) through the Individual Education Plan (IEP). The current law reflects well-settled Connecticut policy. The current law makes good sense because the school districts are in control of the records, staff, the experts, and have unlimited access to all the information about the program they are providing. Our older son has special needs, and is enrolled in a public school in Connecticut. It is sometimes difficult to raise concerns we have about certain aspects of our son's education with the school district.. This proposed legislation would potentially put one more barrier in our path in our effort to provide the best possible future for our son.

We respectfully request that this bill not be allowed to advance in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Sheila Rothman

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